

Message Text

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41

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R 290855 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6282

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0981

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP YE KU (AL- HIJRI, ABDULLA)

SUBJ: VISIT OF YAR PRIME MINISTER TO KUWAIT

REF: SANAA 314

SUMMARY: YAR DELEGATION ACCOMPANIED BY PRIMIN ABDULLAH AL- HIJRI VISITED KUWAIT MARCH 17-19 IN COURSE VISIT TO OTHER ARP STATES. VISIT SEEN DIRECTED TOWARD IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS AND GAINING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. AMBASSADOR HAD PRIVATE TALK WITH DEP PRIMIN/ FONMIN NU' MAN RE YARG ASSISTANCE NEEDS AND YAR/ SAUDI RELATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. PRIME MINISTER ABDULLAH AL- HIJRI OF YAR, ACCOMPANIED BY SIX- MAN DELEGATION INCLUDING DEP PRIMIN/ FONMIN NU' MAN, VISITED KUWAIT MARCH 17-19. AL- HIJRI, WHO WAS RECENTLY YEMENI AMB TO KUWAIT, WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY CROWN PRINCE/ PRIME MINISTER SHAIKH JABER AL- AHMAD AND OTHER NOTABLES. HE HAD TALKS WITH AMIR, CP/ PM, FONMIN, MIN INTERIOR AND DEFENSE, AND DIRGEN OF KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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2. OFFICIAL KUWAITI SPOKESMAN STATED KUWAITI- YEMENI TALKS DEALT WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES IN ALL FIELDS (AL- HIJRI MENTIONED EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS), ARAB AFFAIRS INCLUDING PALESTINE ISSUE AND RED SEA ISLANDS. (YEMENI DEL ARRIVED KUWAIT SHORTLY AFTER LOCAL PAPERS REPORTED TIME STORY RE ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF RED SEA ISLANDS IN BAB AL- MANDEB.) SPOKESMAN ADDED AL- HIJRI STRESSED REPORTS OF SUCH OCCUPATION WERE UNFOUNDED.

3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED MARCH 19 WAS ROUTINE, WITH BOTH SIDES EXPRESSING WISH FOR BOOSTING MUTUAL COOPERATIONS AND KUWAIT ASSURING YARG OF FULL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN ITS DEVELOPMENT. YEMENIS EMPHASIZED THEIR KEENNESS TO PROGRESS TOWARD UNITY WITH PDRY AND KUWAIT GAVE FULL SUPPORT. BOTH PARTIES CALLED FOR MOBILIZING ARAB ENERGIES TO LIBERATE OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS.

4. COMMENT: VISIT TO KUWAIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN PRIMARILY TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS AND ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN INCREASED ASSISTANCE IN FUTURE. GOK ALREADY HAS SEVERAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN YAR IN DEVELOPMENT FIELD AND YARG PROBABLY ALSO SOUGHT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY PROGRAMS. WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT ANY ADDITIONAL AID TO YARG WILL BE IN FIELD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH KFAED, RATHER THAN DIRECT GOVERNMENT- TO- GOVERNMENT GRANTS OR LOANS.

5. IN PRIVATE TALK WITH AMBASSADOR, FONMIN NU' MAN AND CHIEF OF MILITARY STAFF COL. MASOURI STRESSED A) DANGEROUS STATE OF YARG FINANCES, B) NEED FOR WESTERN, ESPECIALLY US, MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO REPLACE SOVIET ASSISTANCE WHICH HAD DRIED UP, C) THEIR CONCERN OVER SAUDI POLICY IN SW ARABIA OF HEAVY FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INEFFECTUAL TRIBAL WARFARE AGAINST PDRY, D) THEIR CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE SAUDI INTERNAL INSTABILITY. AMBASSADOR IN REPLY DISCOUNTED EARLY POSSIBILITY OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND EMPHASIZED INTEREST THAT WHOLE PENINSULA HAD -- OR SHOULD HAVE -- IN ACTIVE SAUDI POLICY TO HELP MAINTAIN STABILITY AND PROVIDE EFFECTIVE DIRECT ASSISTANCE WHEREVER NECESSARY TO COUNTER RADICAL, DISRUPTIVE MOVEMENTS. DIRECT AND OPEN US HHAD IN MILITARY AND SECURITY MATTERS COULD, ON OTHER HAND, EASILY MAKE SITUATION WORSE AND FURTHER POLARIZE SOUTHERN ARABIA RATHER THAT HELP SOLVE
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